1/15/72

Mr. Martin
Senator Edward Kennedy
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Martin,

As I promised, here is a copy of Dr. Lattimer's letter to Medical World News of 3/13/70. It proves much more than that your man is the deliberate liar I characterized him, or the political paranoid, but that he makes confession of ignorance or of deliberate fakery. I think it makes clear that he began with certain preconceptions and has used you to comfort his ego, recapture his reputation of something of the sort. It is beyond dispute that as of the time he wrote this letter he had not troubled himself to bother looking at the available film of the assassination, was incapable of understanding the most obvious parts of it, or deliberately lied about that, too. It seems clear from his most recent statements that until you opened the doors for him, he still had not seen the most important film, taken by Zapruder.

Because I want you to know the mess your have been involved in, I am not going to spend much time with this miserable rot. I have marked only five points in it. The last needs no explanation. You should consider this all in the context of his current misrepresentation, that he was never satisfied that Oswald was guilty until he showed him the suppressed evidence.

It is the grossest falsehood to say that "The Zapruder ~~film~~ movie...quite clearly shows the two points at which the President was hit." I was the first to interpret early parts of the film as showing what to me meant a reaction to having been hit, but this is far from saying it shows the impact. It does not. I challenge Dr. Lattimer to show this to you in my presence. You don't have to know anything about the fact of the crime to know how untrue it is to say that "any bullet coming out of the President's neck would have left a hole in the car." All other possibilities are at least as likely. Likewise with "the President's upright body shielded the Governor from other bullets." These things, aside from being false, also are concepts in terms of the official account only. And the existing and available pictures, which are plentiful show the deliberate lying in the statement that "his ~~xxxxx~~ coat and shirt can be seen folded upward...as he waved..." In none is there more than the slighest wrinkle in the coat. Need I tell you the shirt is, necessarily, entirely invisible? Were this claim to be correct, there would have to be more than one hole in both the shirt and coat. And a six-inch imperfection is such tailoring as the President enjoyed?

Dr. Lattimer's chart is another dead give-away. I invite you to obtain the one he drew for CBS. It is identical in this in its egregious error -after you gave him his exclusive access. The simplest way of explaining it and of your proving it to yourself is to tell you it is impossible that the wound on the back of the neck was that high. The Secret Service did have the foresight to make official observations. They are recorded. Agent Kellerman then, to confirm his own and Agent Greer's observations, called Agent Hill down from the 17th floor specifically for this purpose. All saw the naked body. I took two people you may feel no embarrassment in consulting to the Archives and had them study the individual slides of the Zapruder film with me. They will, I am confident, tell you that

at one point, after the fatal shot, the entire back of the President's neck is clearly visible and shows no wound or blood in this area. One is former Congressman Ted Kupferman, now a judge in New York City (remember his request for an investigation after he saw this film and that certain pathologists accompany him, the request Mr. Marshall not only rejected but still refuses to acknowledge in his current accounting of requests for access?). The other is Herb Jasper, A.A. to Senator Mondale.

Obviously, I can't tell you why Dr. Lattimer is as dishonest as he is, and as deceptive. I can tell you that these and worse characterize everything he now says and has says. And I fear you are saddled with him, that he has hurt your Senator and the memory and reputations of all Kennedys more than I think you may be willing to consider. And in ways that may not yet have dawned on you.

Your silence will not deter me. I will be sending you what I think you should know. Whether or not you heed is your responsibility. Whether or not you consider you owe the country and your Senator at least the opening of a closed mind, I consider that I have certain obligations. I have not bankrupted myself, mortgaged my future and wrecked our lives to be discouraged by the cowardice, hangups or strictures imposed upon you or anyone else.

Unless something else of an important character comes to mind or attention, I will soon be sending you some questions I am addressing to others, not to you. If they answer, which I do not anticipate, I will send you copies. If they do not answer, I encourage you to ponder the questions alone on your own and then evaluate their silences.

Meanwhile, I have charged the Archivist with perjury, and not for the first time, with regard to precisely some of what is here involved. He is, for the second time, silent. There is no doubt at all of the false swearings, hence the silence. Most men have higher regard for their integrity.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg